



Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH
FOR THE YEAR 1968

A. W. PRINGLE,
B.A., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G. F. SLOCOMBE,
M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. EWART RUSE,
A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,
BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(Constituted May, 1968)

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Councillor P. R. C. Gilkes (Vice-Chairman)
Alderman D. B. Harrison
Alderman H. W. Poole
Councillor M. E. S. Bond
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Councillor H. Cordery
Councillor Mrs. Roberts
Councillor S. M. Robertson
Councillor A. E. Roblin
Councillor G. R. M. Thomas

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G. F. Slocombe, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W. Ewart Ruse, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

SENIOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Douglas Andrew, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Dennis W. Rixon, C.R.S.H.

Kenneth E. Evans, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., H.N.D.(Bldg.)

CLERICAL STAFF

Mrs. V. Tranter
Miss V. Fowler

June, 1969

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

This year, the twentieth anniversary of the National Health Service, has been a year of assessment of past achievements and planning for the future. With the publication of the Ministry of Health's Green Paper and the Seebohm Report we are confronted with recommendations for radical changes in the organisation of the Health Service, especially that part administered by Local Authorities.

In his foreword to the Green Paper the Minister has made it clear that it should be regarded as a basis for discussion and there has been no lack of this since its publication. There has been general acceptance of one issue, that the Health Service should in future be administered on a unified basis. But beyond this the actual future administrative structure is by no means settled, and cannot be until the report of the Royal Commission on Local Government has been considered.

Steps have been taken in recent years to overcome some of the disadvantages inherent in a tripartite service. For example, the attachment of Health Visitors and District Nurses to general practices and the move towards practice from Health Centres jointly used by Local Authority Health Services and General Practitioners. These are encouraging signs that the will to work together is there, but it is hard to see how a properly integrated service can come into being without a unified administration.

The Seebohm Report, which broadly recommends the establishment of Social Service Departments, would separate the welfare element from Health Departments, and is still very much a matter for discussion. Again, its recommendations will have to be considered in the light of the report of the Royal Commission.

An examination of the vital statistics reveals only marginal changes from those of 1967. The mortality figures compare favourably with those for England and Wales, but, of course, this is a crude way of assessing the health of a community. Cancer and the degenerative diseases of the heart and circulation continued to be the main causes of death, and it is in an effort to avoid death in middle age from this latter group that transplant surgery has come into being. At the same time, advances in resuscitation have blurred the line between life and death, throwing a glare of publicity on the situation. It would seem that a breathing space is required to allow an unemotional assessment of these two great advances in relation to each other.

Food Hygiene

A further course on food hygiene for those employed in the food industry in the Borough was held at the College of Further Education. There are ten lectures given by doctors and public health inspectors in each course, and an additional two revision classes for those who wish to take the examination of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. Even allowing for movement of population in and out of the Borough there must by now be a good nucleus of trained people in the restaurants,

shops and factories. There is also the education aspect of regular visits to these establishments by the Public Health Inspectors whose job is not simply to enforce the regulations, but to instruct as well.

There was one case of food poisoning notified. The case returned from a holiday in Spain with her infection.

Tuberculosis

During the year ten new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified. This is one less than the previous year, and gives a fall of 0.1 in the rate per 1,000 population. Only one of these cases was an immigrant, which suggests that with the slowing down of the inflow of immigrants from Italy, Pakistan and other places abroad, the disease is being controlled amongst those already resident here. In 1963, when almost half the new cases were immigrants, it appeared that a major public health problem was developing.

New Cases

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Respiratory</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 of Population</i>
1958	22,960	16	11	0.48
1959	23,580	22	17	0.72
1960	24,410	12	6	0.25
1961	27,040	5	5	0.18
1962	29,090	10	7	0.24
1963	31,030	17	15	0.48
1964	32,510	9	7	0.22
1965	33,680	9	6	0.11
1966	34,380	11	8	0.23
1967	35,190	12	11	0.31
1968	35,990	10	10	0.28

Each year in this section of the Report mention has been made of the part played by the Chest Clinic in tuberculosis control. Dr. Stephen Hall, the chest consultant, has completed his last year of service, and I would like to record my gratitude to him for his ready help and guidance in this field. Although essentially a physician, he has always taken a great interest in the epidemiological side of his work and he can look back with satisfaction on the striking reduction in all forms of the disease during his years of work in Aylesbury.

Infective Jaundice

The Public Health (Infective Jaundice) Regulations, 1968, came into operation on the 15th June. These regulations made infective jaundice notifiable throughout the Country, and were generally welcomed because up to that time it was difficult for a Medical Officer of Health to get an overall picture of the incidence of the disease. Three cases were notified in the Borough. It is a difficult disease to control because of its long and variable incubation period, and the fact that people can suffer from it having only fleeting jaundice or no signs of jaundice at all. They may therefore quite unknowingly act as carriers. However, as in other infections, it is of the greatest help to have early notification.

Dysentery

There were only four cases of dysentery notified during the year. This should not be taken as an indication that this disease cannot return in epidemic proportions as it did in 1966. The need for teaching and practice of sound personal hygiene is just as essential as ever.

Venereal Disease

Figures obtained from the Royal Bucks Hospital of persons living in Aylesbury and attending the special clinic show some increase on the previous year. Although there was only one new case of syphilis, there were thirty-three new cases of gonorrhoea, one-third more than in 1967. The specialist has reported that an increased number contracted the infection outside the area.

The senior pupils at all the secondary schools in the area were given talks and shown films on venereal disease, and this is now a regular feature of the health education programme.

Measles

You will note from the infectious diseases table that there has been a most striking reduction in the number of measles notifications. The immunisation campaign against measles started in May, 1968, and before the end of the year every child up to the age of 15 years in the area who had not had measles had been offered immunisation. This required a considerable effort in which the general practitioners also wholeheartedly joined.

The vaccine is made with live attenuated measles virus and underwent extensive trials before being accepted for general use. Very few reactions of any severity were reported in this area. If measles can be controlled, and there is every reason to hope that it will be, permanent damage to ears, chests and general health due to the disease, will be avoided. Judging by the initial response to immunisation, these factors are appreciated by the general public.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their continued advice and support throughout the year, my Deputy, Dr. Slocombe, the Borough Public Health Inspector, and the staff of the Public Health Department for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. PRINGLE,

B.A., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	3,594 acres
Population (estimated mid-1968)	35,990
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1968 according to Rate Books)	11,292
Rateable Value	£2,365,619
Sum represented by a penny rate	£9,803

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

BIRTHS

						1967			1968		
						M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate	..	..	369	373	742	381	329	710			
Illegitimate	..	..	22	28	50	24	28	52			
						1967			1968		
Rate per 1,000 population			..	..	..	22.22		21.17			
Rate (corrected)			..	..	..	18.89		17.57			
Rate for England and Wales			..	..	..	17.2		16.9			
Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births)						..	6.31	6.82			

Still Births:

1967

1968

			M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate			4	3	7	6	4	10
Illegitimate			—	2	2	—	—	—
						1967		1968
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births						11.24		12.95

DEATHS

				1967			1968		
				M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Deaths	..	..	..	143	128	271	154	162	316
							1967		1968
Rate per 1,000 population				..	..	..	7.70		8.78
Standardised Rate				..	..	..	10.01		11.41
Rate for England and Wales				..	..	..	11.2		11.9

Deaths of infants under one year of age:

			1967			1968		
			M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate	..	..	5	5	10	6	5	11
Illegitimate	..	..	1	—	1	—	1	1

Death rate of infants under one year of age:

		1967	1968
All infants per 1,000 live births		13.89	15.75
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..		13.48	15.49
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..		20.00	19.23
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales ..		18.3	18.0

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:

			1967			1968		
			M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate			4	3	7	2	2	4
Illegitimate			—	—	—	—	1	1
						1967		1968
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births						8.84		6.56

Deaths of infants under 1 week of age:

			1967			1968		
			M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate			3	3	6	2	2	4
Illegitimate			—	—	—	—	1	1
						1967		1968
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)						7.58		6.56
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births) ..						18.73		19.43

Maternal Mortality:

Number of deaths (including abortion)	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	—	—

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

	M	F
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	19	16
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	—
Leukaemia	3	—
Diabetes mellitus	—	1
Other endocrine, etc., diseases	—	1
Anaemias	—	2
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	2	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	3	9
Hypertensive disease	5	7
Ischaemic heart disease	33	24
Other forms of heart disease	7	5
Cerebrovascular disease	7	28
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	6
Influenza	1	2
Pneumonia	11	18
Bronchitis and emphysema	16	6

Other diseases of respiratory system	4	1
Peptic ulcer	1	—
Other diseases of digestive system	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	—	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	2
Congenital anomalies	—	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	—
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	—	1
Motor vehicle accidents	3	4
All other accidents	4	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	3	1
All other external causes	4	—
	<hr/> 154	<hr/> 162

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

During the year the Royal Bucks, Tindal General and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals have provided accommodation for surgical and medical cases, whilst the Isolation Hospital continued to admit persons suffering from infectious diseases.

Stoke Mandeville Hospital also provided accommodation for paraplegic cases.

The above hospitals situated in the Borough are administered by the Royal Buckinghamshire and Associated Hospitals Management Committee, who are responsible to the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital

Routine samples of ice cream and water and other specimens requiring bacteriological examination were sent to this Laboratory throughout the year. Reports were received with the minimum delay, and the help and advice given by the Medical Director were much appreciated.

Ambulance Services

These are provided by the Bucks County Council and are under the direction of the County Medical Officer. Nine ambulances and five dual purpose vehicles were available at the Ambulance Headquarters, Buckingham Road, for use in the Borough and surrounding districts. In addition, there is also a convertible "ambulance car" for the carrying of sitting or stretcher cases who have to be conveyed by road over long distances. There is two-way radio link between all vehicles and Headquarters.

An ambulance car service on a limited scale has been introduced during the year to supplement the directly provided services.

The majority of long distance journeys are carried out by train, stretcher cases being accommodated in reserved compartments. All casualties in the Borough are conveyed to the Casualty Department of the Royal Bucks Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Clinics were functioning during the year:				
<i>Times open</i>	<i>Clinic</i>	<i>Number of children attending</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Doctor attended Each Session</i>
77	Pebble Lane	545	Every Tuesday, 2nd and 4th Wednesday	69
74	Quarrendon	527	Every Wednesday, 1st and 3rd Tuesday (Toddlers)	Each Session
24	Southcourt	163	1st and 3rd Wednesday	58
65	Limes Avenue, Tring Road	666	Every Monday, 2nd and 4th Wednesday	—
240		1,901		

Child Welfare

Some parents cease to attend the Clinic as soon as all primary immunisations are completed, and the child has reached an age when feeding difficulties are less common. When this happens the child may well not be seen again by a doctor until school entry, unless the general practitioner's advice is sought for some illness. As an experiment two toddlers sessions per month were held at the Quarrendon Clinic, appointments being sent to the parents in advance. Judging by the attendances the parents, when reminded, appreciated the opportunity to see the doctor and health visitor.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total Notifications received		Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
		Male Female		
Measles	445	28 20	1	—
Whooping Cough	3	11 9	—	—
Dysentery	12	2 2	8*	2*
Scarlet Fever	14	1 —	—	—
Pneumonia	2	6 4	2*	—
Food Poisoning	2	— 1	1	1
Typhoid Fever	1	— —	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	— 2	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	1 —	—	1
Infective Jaundice	—	— 3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	— 1	—	—

*Manor House

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year with analysis under age groups

	Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Age Unknown	Totals
Measles ..	3	14	19	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	48
Whooping Cough	—	5	7	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	20
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	4
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	5	1	1	10
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Paratyphoid											
Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Infective											
Jaundice ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Ophthalmia											
Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Age Groups:				
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	2 (1)	2	—	—
25—	— (3)	1	—	—
35—	—	1	—	—
45—	1 (1)	1	—	—
55—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—
Totals:	4 (5)	6	—	—

The figures in brackets denote the number of cases notified originally in other districts, and who have moved into the Borough during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE
Oxford Regional Hospital Board (Northern Area)
Report of survey carried out at H.M. Prison, Aylesbury, on 1/3/68

Summary of Work

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	134	—	134
No. referred to chest clinic	—	—	—
No. referred to general practitioners	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	126	—	126
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	8	—	8

Results of cases referred to Chest Clinic

NIL

**Summary of newly discovered significant
cases of Tuberculosis**

<i>Group</i>	<i>No. Examined</i>	<i>Active P.T.</i>	<i>Rate per Thousand</i>	<i>Inactive P.T.</i>	<i>Rate per Thousand</i>
Staff	6	—	—	—	—
Prisoners	128	—	—	—	—
Total:	134	—	—	—	—

**Report of survey carried out on staff at
Tindal General Hospital, Aylesbury, on 5/4/68**

Summary of Work

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	16	76	92
No. referred to chest clinic	—	—	—
No. referred to general practitioners	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	10	61	71
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	6	15	21

Results of cases referred to Chest Clinic

NIL

**Report of survey carried out on staff at
Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, on 5/4/68**

Summary of Work

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	57	111	168
No. referred for further investigation	—	2	2
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	49	90	139
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	8	21	29

Results of cases requiring further investigation

Bronchitis	—	1	1
Normal	—	1	1
	—	2	2

**Report of survey carried out at
H.M. Prison, Aylesbury, on 4/10/68**

Summary of Work

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	..	..	..	..	99	—	99
No. referred to chest clinic	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
No. referred to general practitioners	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	..	30	—	30
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	69	—	69

Results of cases referred to Chest Clinic

Pulmonary Fibrosis (Staff)	1	—	1
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**Summary of newly discovered significant
cases of Tuberculosis**

<i>Group</i>		<i>No. Examined</i>	<i>Active P.T.</i>	<i>Rate per Thousand</i>	<i>Inactive P.T.</i>	<i>Rate per Thousand</i>
Prisoners	..	77	—	—	—	—
Staff	.. ..	22	—	—	—	—
Total:		99	—	—	—	—

**Report of survey carried out on staff at
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, on 24/10/68**

Response: 89%

Summary of Work

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	..	..	..	..	43	147	190
No. referred to chest clinic	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. referred to general practitioners	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	..	36	111	147
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	..	7	36	43

Results of cases referred to Chest Clinic

NIL

**Report of survey carried out on staff at
Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, on 7/11/68 and 8/11/68**

Summary of Work

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	..	..	..	..	101	166	267
No. referred to chest clinic	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. referred to general practitioners	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	..	69	116	185
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	..	32	50	82

Results of cases referred to Chest Clinic

NIL

**Report of survey carried out at
H.M. Detention Centre, Aylesbury
Monthly visits 1968**

Summary of Work

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	..	..	..	..	362	—	362
No. referred to chest clinic	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. referred to general practitioners	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	..	81	—	81
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	..	..	..	..	281	—	281

Results of cases referred to Chest Clinic

NIL

**Summary of newly discovered significant
cases of Tuberculosis**

<i>Group</i>		<i>No. Examined</i>	<i>Active P.T.</i>	<i>Rate per Thousand</i>	<i>Inactive P.T.</i>	<i>Rate per Thousand</i>
Staff	..	—	—		—	
Prisoners	..	362	—		—	
Total:		362	—		—	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply of the Borough is obtained through the Bucks Water Board from wells situated at Dancers End, New Ground, Hawridge and High Wycombe.

Sampling has been carried out during the year by the Water Authority at their wells and also in the town.

Twelve samples of water were taken from the main service by this Department during the year, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

One sample taken from a pump at business premises in the town was found to be polluted. Arrangements were made for the use of the pump to be discontinued and the main supply laid on.

All houses in the Borough are connected to the main supply and the quantity of water supplied to the town is adequate.

Drainage

Although the whole of the surface water has not been separated from the foul drainage within the central area, it can be assumed that the Borough is drained on the separate system.

Sewage Disposal Works

The Sewage Disposal Works constructed at the confluence of the Bear Brook and the River Thame is producing effluent well within the Thames Conservancy's standard, and is to be extended to cater for the increase in population of the Borough.

Sludge Disposal

This is by means of tankers and is distributed in liquid form on surrounding farms.

Public Cleansing

Refuse disposal is carried out by controlled tipping at Calvert, thirteen miles on the Bicester side of Aylesbury. The new controlled tip has been in operation since May, 1964, and is proving satisfactory.

A comprehensive salvage collection scheme is in operation. The Corporation has three suction type sweepers which have proved themselves invaluable during the year.

Open-Air Swimming Pool, Park Street

The water in the pool circulates continuously throughout the period of use, being filtered and chlorinated before re-introduction to the swimming pool. Fifty-three samples of water were taken for chlorine content and pH value during the summer months.

During the winter of 1967/68 a heating plant was installed at the Open-Air Swimming Pool, which was in operation during the season, and keeps the water at approximately 72°F during the whole of the season. With the installation of this plant it was possible to increase the length of the swimming season at both ends, and the result of this was an increase in the bathing load for the year of approximately 26,000 bathers.

Catering facilities at the Pool, which had previously been let out on contract, were undertaken by the Council under the supervision of the Baths Superintendent. The facilities provided consist of a refreshment kiosk serving the Vale Park and Pool, and four vending machines in the Pool area. The standard of hygiene maintained in connection with these services was satisfactory.

School Swimming Pools

During the year, and at the request of the County Health Inspector, the Department accepted responsibility for sampling the school swimming pools in the Borough, the numbers of which are rapidly increasing.

Twenty-eight samples (twelve bacteriological and sixteen for chlorine content) were taken during the year, the majority of which proved satisfactory.

Hot Baths

Attendances at the Hot Baths, adjoining the Swimming Pool at Park Street, amounted to a total of 3,631 during the year. The total for 1967 was 3,311.

Schools

The water supply and sanitary accommodation to all schools in the Borough are adequate.

Local Rainfall

January	..	..	1.76 ins.	July	..	..	4.09 ins.
February	..	..	0.59 ins.	August	..	..	2.42 ins.
March	..	..	0.88 ins.	September	..	..	3.31 ins.
April	..	..	1.69 ins.	October	..	..	1.46 ins.
May	..	..	2.42 ins.	November	..	..	1.21 ins.
June	..	..	2.15 ins.	December	..	..	1.43 ins.

(Figures supplied by Mr. B. G. Hannay, Borough Engineer and Surveyor)

Mr. Hannay stated that the total rainfall for the year was 23.41 inches; this is less than in the previous year and below the yearly average of 24.88 inches. Rain fell on 168 days, compared with 174 days in 1967. The readings for July and September were the highest for 8 years, and the May reading was the second highest for twelve years. The reading for November was the second lowest for twelve years.

The highest daily rainfall occurred on 10th July, when 1.66 inches was recorded.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Informal action has been taken where necessary under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, to remedy contraventions of the requirements of this Act in mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health

	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power } Factories with mechanical power	60	—	—

2. Defects found—Nil

Outwork in unwholesome premises

There are eight outworkers' premises in the town, all of which are in a satisfactory condition.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Friars Square, Aylesbury.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1968. No unusual or outstanding event in the environmental health field occurred during the year, but steady progress in slum clearance work was continued, and the remainder of the work of the Department was carried out in its normal efficient manner. Particulars of the work done under the various headings is as follows, the figures in brackets denoting work carried out during 1967.

HOUSING

Progress in the slum clearance programme was maintained during the year. The Hale Street Inquiry, to which reference was made in my last Report, was held, and the Compulsory Purchase Order on one side of the road, and the Clearance Order on the other confirmed, with one small amendment in that an outbuilding at the rear of the house subject to a Clearance Order was, with the consent of the Council, removed from the Order. Towards the end of the year the Mill Street Clearance Orders were submitted to and approved by the Council, and submitted to the Minister for confirmation.

Demolition of Walton Place and Walton Green was completed during the year, and re-housing from the St. John's Road and Brook Row areas proceeded as housing accommodation became available.

Individual improvements to houses in the Victoria Park area continued at a slow rate during the year. Following the issue of the Government's White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes", at the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the area was again looked at with a view to carrying out improvements in advance of legislation on the lines suggested in the White Paper. Members of the Ministry's staff visited the town and discussed the matter with the Chief Officers, and later toured the area and expressed themselves as satisfied that it was an area which lent itself to area improvement. Unfortunately, however, owing to pressure on the staff of the Surveyor's and Architect's Departments, and the fact that no physical help was forthcoming from the Ministry, no action was taken in implementing the proposals.

Although houses in multiple occupation continue to occupy a certain amount of the time of the Department, the situation in this regard within the Borough has eased over the years. A large proportion of the West Indian immigrants have brought their families over, and are now tending to occupy individual houses rather than houses in multiple occupation. Whilst the same is not true to the same extent with regard to the Indian and Pakistani families, the same trend is observed with these immigrants. On the whole, the question of multiple occupation has presented less difficulties than it has in previous years.

Three cases in which rent books had not been supplied, as required by the Landlord and Tenant Act, were reported during the year, but following informal action by the Department the rent books were supplied. One case of overcrowding was reported and referred to the Housing Department for action.

The general work carried out by the Department under the Housing Act is set out in the following table:

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	38	(89)
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	205	(252)
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	57	(49)
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	6	(1)
Miscellaneous housing visits	..	..	..	59	(85)
Multi-occupation housing visits	..	..	..	188	(322)
Overcrowding visits	..	..	..	9	(7)
<i>Houses repaired:</i>					
By owners	..	..	..	47	(20)
By the Borough Council in default	..	..	..	—	(—)

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

As I have stated in previous Reports the introduction of specific legislation for dealing with matters affecting environmental hygiene and health, originally dealt with in omnibus fashion under the Public Health Acts, has had the result of leaving only a relatively small number of matters, the chief of which are drainage and nuisances, within the ambit of these Acts. As will be seen from the following table the main work of this Department under this heading relates to drainage and nuisances, and the notices served under the Public Health Acts are confined almost entirely to these two matters:

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	97	(75)
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	282	(155)
Drainage visits	..	..	..	380	(405)
Drainage tests	..	..	..	20	(16)
Nuisances found	..	..	..	234	(185)
Nuisances abated	..	..	..	234	(185)
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	10	(—)
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	25	(14)

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

No complaints regarding the sounding of ice cream chimes were received by the Department during the year, and only one complaint of noise from a factory was received. Unfortunately, very little co-operation was received from the factory concerned, and at the end of the year the nuisance was still unresolved. Seventeen visits were made in connection with noise nuisance during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

As previously stated, the duties of the Department in connection with mechanical factories is limited to the inspection of conveniences, all other aspects of factory legislation being under the control of the Factory Inspector. In this day of hand operated power tools, there are very few factories which can be said to be without

mechanical power, and as such being subject to the control of this Department in regard to cleanliness, overcrowding, etc., so that the duties of the Department under the Factories Act are limited. Other Acts, however, particularly the Food Hygiene Regulations, necessitate periodic visits to the food factories in the town, and to all factories which operate a canteen, but as these visits are under their individual headings in the Report it will be appreciated that the number of visits in the following table does not indicate the visits actually made to factories.

Mechanical factories on register requiring visiting	120	(118)
Non-mechanical factories on register requiring visiting	19	(17)
Visits paid to factories	60	(63)

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Four hundred and thirty-eight visits were paid to offices, shops and railway premises during the year, ninety-eight being specifically for inspections under the above Act, the remainder being primarily for some other purpose. Six informal notices were served during the year, the majority referring to minor infringements of the Act, i.e., provision of thermometers, first-aid boxes, abstracts of the Act, etc. Very little difficulty is experienced in securing compliance with the notices, and in no instance has it been necessary to institute legal proceedings for the enforcement of a notice.

Ten accidents were reported during the year, none of which was fatal. All of the accidents, which were of a varying nature, were investigated, and in most instances it was found that more care, either in attending to the sweeping of the floor or in carrying out the duties involved, would have prevented the accidents which occurred. In one instance in which the handle of a baling press flew back and cut an employee above the eye necessitating the insertion of five stitches, the manufacturers of the machine were asked to come and give advice on its proper manipulation. In no other accident was any definite action called for. A resume of the return required by the Ministry of Labour is appended:

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number receiving a general inspection during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Total number of persons employed
Offices	10	25	165	1,542
Retail Shops	14	44	261	1,811
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	4	21	313
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	—	6	25	338
Fuel Storage Depots	—	—	1	32

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The operation of the Shops Acts presented very little difficulty during the year, only three visits being made in this connection. Six informal notices, one in connection with closing hours, were served on shopkeepers, all being complied with.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS AND DISINFESTATION

Once again the figures of private premises treated, the points laid in private premises and rat and mouse bodies found, show a slight reduction over the previous year, but business premises and Local Authority premises treated and the points laid in these two types of premises show an increase. I feel that this is a vindication of my previous statement that there must be no relaxation in the work of rodent control, since any slackness can soon result in the growth of infestation throughout the Borough.

As stated last year, permission had been received from the Ministry to discontinue sewer baiting until 1969.

With reference to my item in last year's Report concerning the infestation of roof spaces by rats from the surface water drainage system, an experiment was carried out in one area of the town in which a grid was placed over the outfall of the surface water sewer, and so far it seems that this has resulted in a reduction in the number of complaints received in this area.

The agreement service for the treatment of factories and shops still continues, and is appreciated by those firms remaining within the agreement service. Work carried out on business premises other than by the agreement service is charged for, whilst a free service to private householders is continued.

The number of wasps nests destroyed showed a dramatic drop in the year from one hundred and fifty-seven to eight, but this was probably due largely to the extremely wet and cold summer.

Two reports of bed bug infestation were received and dealt with, and three of fleas. Other insect infestations in which assistance was given by the Department included beetles, flies, ants, weevils and red mites.

A summary of the work carried out under this Act during the year is appended:

Private Premises treated	..	..	..	..	164	(222)
Business Premises treated	..	..	..	..	92	(78)
Local Authority Premises treated			..	..	23	(13)
Rat bodies found	..	..	..	..	376	(494)
Mouse bodies found	..	..	..	..	183	(217)
Points laid—Private Premises	..	..	..	..	409	(583)
Points laid—Business Premises	..	..	..	..	513	(497)
Points laid—Local Authority Premises	..	..	..	..	157	(121)
Manholes treated	..	..	..	..	—	(87)
Visits made by Public Health Inspectors				..	92	(111)
Wasps Nests destroyed	..	..	..	..	8	(157)

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

It was disappointing that for yet another year action in regard to the implementation of further Smoke Control Areas in the Borough was deferred. Although Aylesbury is generally considered as a fairly clean town, reference to a new "league table"

produced by the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Ministry of Technology in connection with the measurement of atmospheric pollution by Local Authorities shows that in areas of the same classification as Aylesbury in the Southern Division, Aylesbury is not far from the top of the table. For example, in March, 1968, the Aylesbury stations were respectively 4th, 5th, 3rd and 4th. The most heavily polluted sites were in South Wales, South England, and East Anglia. I feel that these results give little cause for complacency, and that serious attention should be given to implementing further Smoke Control Areas within the Borough at as early a date as possible.

Eight smoke nuisances were reported during the year, but in every case informal action secured an abatement, and no statutory action was necessary. Three hundred and sixty-five visits were made in connection with this Act during the year.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The measurement of atmospheric pollution at the four stations in the Borough was continued during the year up to August, when unfortunately owing to the proposed closure of the Unigate factory in Bicester Road, and the consequent reduction in staff, they were no longer able to continue with the measurements and the station was closed.

As in 1967 the two stations in schools were closed for the period of the school holidays. No appreciable difference has been discovered in the pattern of pollution, although in certain months one or other of the sites at the Grammar School and Oak Green School was showing higher concentrations than that at the Town Hall.

With the use of the computer for producing the figures of pollution for the various stations throughout the country results are now received much quicker than previously, and I append a table showing the monthly average concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide at the various stations throughout the year.

**Monthly average concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide
in microgrammes per cubic metre**

<i>Month</i>	<i>Smoke</i>				<i>Sulphur Dioxide</i>			
	<i>Site 1</i>	<i>Site 2</i>	<i>Site 3</i>	<i>Site 4</i>	<i>Site 1</i>	<i>Site 2</i>	<i>Site 3</i>	<i>Site 4</i>
Jan. 1968	66	109	N	83	69	131	N	90
Feb. 1968	78	99	75	97	85	117	131	93
March 1968	41	62	43	52	68	89	98	67
April 1968	30	41	28	38	61	67	57	54
May 1968	N	25	23	31	N	54	60	47
June 1968	11	16	12	15	47	44	41	42
July 1968	13	14	16	15	45	41	35	39
Aug. 1968	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Sept. 1968	Station	19	27	N	Station	29	40	N
Oct. 1968	closed	30	26	35	closed	46	55	57
Nov. 1968	„	52	43	67	„	91	109	85
Dec. 1968	„	80	65	96	„	131	156	139

Site 1—Unigate Creameries Ltd., Bicester Road

Site 2—Town Hall

Site 3—Grammar School, Walton Road

Site 4—Oak Green School

Note: "N" indicates that insufficient results were received to give a fair average.

FOOD

For the first time since reports on the work of the Health Department have been presented to the Borough Council, there is no reference to inspection of meat at slaughterhouses as there is no slaughterhouse now operating within the Borough, and all meat consumed within the Borough is killed and inspected at slaughterhouses elsewhere.

In the table which follows a small amount of fresh meat is shown, but this is the result of meat inspected at butchers' shops.

Six slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year.

The amount of foodstuffs surrendered and disposed of from wholesale and retail premises in the Borough as a result of inspections carried out, often on request from shopkeepers, follows:

	WEIGHT		Number
	lbs.	ozs.	
Eggs	12	—	96
Lard	25	—	—
Butter	240	8	—
Cheese	21	11	—
Fresh Meat	879	3	—
Fresh Fish	145	5	—
Tinned Vegetables ..	3,485	11	1,979
Tinned Fruit	1,538	5	1,665
Tinned Meat	1,586	3	486
Tinned Milk	96	4	113
Tinned Fish	100	6	213
Preserves	824	—	245
Miscellaneous	1,494	5	631
<i>Frozen Foods:</i>			
Meat	208	1	—
Vegetables	204	8	—
Fish	349	14	—
Fruit	9	2	—
Milk Products	9	12	—
Miscellaneous	61	1	—
Total:	11,291 lbs.	3 ozs.	5,428

Total foodstuffs condemned during the year:

Total for 1967 8 tons 11 cwt. 2 qtrs. 13 lbs. 11 ozs.

Total for 1968 5 tons — cwt. 3 qtrs. 7 lbs. 3 ozs.

Thirty-four complaints were received in the office during the year concerning the condition of foodstuffs purchased and found not to be fit in one way or another. Twenty-two of the complaints related to foreign bodies in the food, whilst the remainder concerned either mould, taste or discolouration.

One complaint related to a live centipede said to have been found in a loaf of bread. It was felt that an insect of this nature could not have been present in the bread when it was baked, as it would not have survived the heat of baking and would have been found dead. Although inspection of the van and of the premises where the loaf was kept after purchase revealed no infestation of centipedes, it was felt that in all the circumstances it had most probably gained access after purchase, and no evidence was present which suggested that it had been in the loaf at the time of sale.

A complaint received from another Authority concerning a beetle found in a doughnut prepared from a mix produced at the Doughnut Corporation of America's premises in Aylesbury was investigated, but no evidence could be found of any beetle infestation at the factory premises, and a check on the methods adopted there to prevent such an infestation was made, and the methods were considered to be satisfactory. The Public Health Inspector of the District concerned was notified of the findings, and no prosecution was instituted by them.

A further complaint concerned a piece of wire found in soup prepared from a bacon joint purchased in the town. Investigation at the Store into the methods of preparation and wrapping of the bacon joints showed that it was virtually impossible for the piece of wire complained of, which was obviously from the cellophane wrapping of the bacon, to find its way into the bacon itself. In all the circumstances it was felt that it was most likely that the wire had been dropped into the water in which the bacon was to be boiled when the wrapping was opened, and no further action was taken in the matter.

A complaint of maggots in a packet of dates was referred to the Natural History Museum, when the maggots were identified as those of the tropical warehouse moth. In this case, particularly as the dates were wrapped in Iran, it was obvious that no blame could be attached to the importers or the retailers, and the Iranian Embassy was asked to take the matter up with the packers.

An interesting complaint concerned what was alleged to be portions of glass in a bottle of Bovril. On examination the complaint appeared to be well founded as there were several large crystals of what looked like brown glass, similar to that of which the bottle was constructed, in the Bovril remaining in the bottle. Although no evidence could be found of any splintering from the bottle itself, it was at first assumed that an accident had occurred during packing at the factory and the material not rejected. On further investigation, however, it was found that the crystals dissolved in warm water, and on further enquiry it was found that these were salt crystals, the salt having crystallised in the product during storage owing to an incomplete seal on the stopper.

All the cases complained of were investigated, and although it was not felt in every case necessary to take Committee's instructions in the matter, such instructions were requested where there was an element of doubt, but in no case was a prosecution instituted during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The only duty now remaining with the Borough Council under this heading is that of registering milk retailers. The milk distribution trade is now confined to the distribution of milk in bottles and containers as received from wholesalers, and supervision by this Department is very much less important than it was in previous

years. Six visits were made to dairy premises during the year. Milk producers are licensed and controlled by the County Agricultural Committee acting as agents for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

ICE CREAM

One hundred and thirty-four premises in the area are registered for the sale of ice cream, in addition to which a number of vendors who are not subject to registration tour the streets in various vehicles selling ice cream and ice lollies. The majority of the ice cream sold in the Borough by the various retailers is produced by a relatively small number of large manufacturers, and it is therefore unnecessary to take a large number of samples to check the methods of production. A large proportion of the mobile ice cream vendors now sell soft ice cream, and it has been found necessary to remind them of the necessity of complete sterilization of the unit at the end of each day's operation. It will be seen from the following table of samples taken during the year that two fell into Grade 4, which is unsatisfactory, and one in Grade 3, which is fair. All these three samples were from soft ice cream vendors, and in each case a visit was immediately made to get him to improve the methods of sterilization of his machinery.

Thirteen samples of ice cream were submitted during the year and were graded as follows:

Grade 1	..	6 samples
Grade 2	..	4 samples
Grade 3	..	1 sample
Grade 4	..	2 samples

Seventy visits were paid to ice cream dealers' premises and premises from which mobile vans operated during the year.

FOOD SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, ETC.

The general standard of cleanliness and hygiene in food premises remained satisfactory throughout the year, and no cause for formal action arose. Constant vigilance is needed in relation to food shops to ensure that the need for food hygiene is realized and maintained by the staff, and efforts are made to ensure that all restaurants and canteens, in particular, are visited at least twice each year.

The table setting out the inspections made in this connection follows:

Market Stalls	..	..	..	469	(609)
Grocers	..	..	..	163	(130)
Butchers	..	..	..	65	(70)
Restaurants and Canteens			..	58	(99)
Fishmongers	..	..	..	43	(36)
Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	26	(23)

Four informal notices were served under the Food Hygiene Regulations during the year, all of which were complied with by the end of December.

MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES

Following the work reported last year under this heading in checking that the delivery vehicles operating in the town complied with the regulations, it has been found, this year, that most of the vehicles are maintained to a proper standard as required by the regulations. In only four cases were breaches of the regulations found, and informal notices secured compliance with the regulations in each case.

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the Borough is supplied with piped water obtained from the Chiltern Hills by the Bucks Water Board. Twelve samples of water were taken from the main service during the year, and all proved satisfactory.

PETROLEUM

The self service petroleum station operating in the town continued to operate satisfactorily during the year. Work on a further self service station was commenced, but it had not been brought into operation by the end of the year.

New Model Codes prepared by the Home Office were issued during the year, but no points in them necessitated alterations of the licensing conditions adopted by the Council.

Particulars of licences issued and quantities licensed to be stored are as follows:

Licences issued for storage of petroleum spirit and mixtures	69	(71)
Licences issued for storage of carbide of calcium	1	(1)
Inspection of petrol and carbide stores	53	(62)
Quantity licensed to be stored:		
Petroleum Spirit	210,944 galls.	(232,244 galls.)
Petroleum Mixtures	2,405 galls.	(2,230 galls.)
Carbide of Calcium	300 lbs.	(300 lbs.)
Total of Licence Fees	£76.17.6	(£78.10.0)

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The public conveniences in the town were maintained throughout the year in a satisfactory condition. Complaints of vandalism were not as high as in past years.

MISCELLANEOUS

Other work of the Department not covered by any of the previous headings include the following:

Miscellaneous Public Health Visits	628	(663)
Interviews	1,748	(1,630)
Complaints received and investigated	299	(324)
Infectious Disease Visits	34	(71)
Smoke Visits	45	(47)
Moveable Dwellings Inspected ..	16	(20)
Pet Animals Act Visits	11	(33)
Public Convenience Visits ..	894	(899)

Eleven scrap metal dealers are registered in the Borough.

GENERAL

The only new legislation affecting the Department during the year was the Clean Air Act, 1968, which amended the Clean Air Act, 1956, in certain respects. The various sections of the Act were to be brought into effect by Orders made by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, and no such Orders had been made by the end of the year, so that no amendment to the Act in fact came into effect in 1968.

There were no changes in the staff of the Department during the year, and I should like to thank the staff for their continued loyalty and service throughout the year.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council and Committee for their continued help and confidence, and to my fellow Officers for their advice and assistance.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

W. EWART RUSE, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,

Borough Public Health Inspector

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